

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 20, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
The United States Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steny H. Hoyer
House Majority Leader
The United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Rangel
Chairman
Ways and Means Committee
2354 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Henry Waxman
Chairman
Energy and Commerce Committee
2204 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable George Miller
Chairman
Education and Labor Committee
2205 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Colleagues:

We are writing to express our concerns about the potential impact the recent breast cancer screening recommendations made by the United States Preventive Services Task Force could have on women's access to mammography services. Therefore, as Congress works to fix our broken health care system, we ask that any health reform bill considered in the future by the House of Representatives include provisions to ensure no women 40 and older loses access to their mammography coverage.

It is estimated that one in eight women will develop breast cancer in their lifetime, and nearly everyone has had a relative or friend affected by this potentially deadly diagnosis. In the interest of early detection and intervention, many women in their 40s have heeded the advice of professionals who have recommended annual mammograms for women age 40 and over. Having insurance providers cover mammograms has ensured that financial concerns are not a factor in a women's decision whether or not to be screened, helping to make sure this decision is made between a woman and her medical provider.

However, on November 16, 2009, the United States Preventive Services Task Force released new recommendations against routine mammography screening for breast cancer in women ages 40 to 49. While we recognize the mission of the Task Force and respect their efforts to bring an impartial assessment of the scientific evidence available

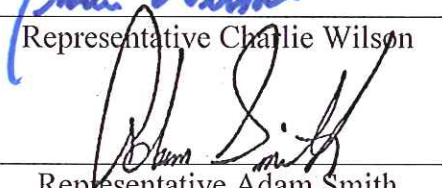
for preventive services, we are concerned about the impact these recommendations could have on insurance coverage of the mammography services women ages 40-49 have relied on for years. Given that the Task Force is just one of many groups involved in evaluating scientific research, we believe that additional research should be conducted as to the benefits and risks of routine mammography screening before any women's health insurance coverage for mammogram services is discontinued.

H.R. 3962 makes significant improvements to the health care system by reducing costs, eliminating pre-existing conditions exclusions and prohibiting insurance companies from cutting off coverage for those who become ill. Women with breast cancer will benefit from these protections currently included in H.R. 3962. However, we respectfully ask that any health reform legislation voted on in the future by the House of Representatives include provisions to protect women's access to mammography services and prevent insurers from rolling back important coverage until additional research can be conducted.

Thank you for your attention to this important and timely matter. Please do not hesitate to contact any of the signed Members.

Sincerely,



Representative Charlie Wilson


Representative Adam Smith


Representative Leonard Boswell

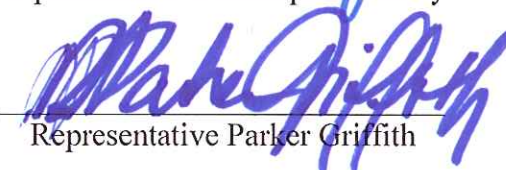

Representative Glenn Nye


Representative Tim Bishop


Representative Lincoln Davis


Representative Mary Jo Kilroy



Representative Christopher Carney



Representative Parker Griffith

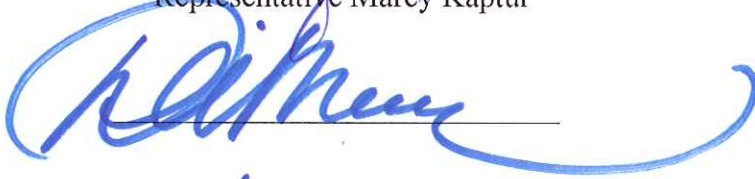

Representative Patrick Murphy


Representative Jane Harman

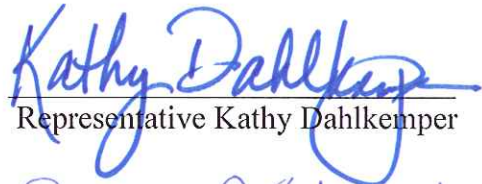

Representative Michael Michaud


Representative Henry Cuellar


Representative Marcy Kaptur






Representative Kathy Dahlkemper


Representative Donna F. Edwards